

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks and discussion. Claims 2-26 are pending in the application, and claims 4-6, 8-10, 17-19, 21-22 and 24-26 are allowable.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 7, 11-16, 20 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonezawa (US 2002/0121857) in view of Yoshinobu (JP59-146139). The present invention, as defined in claims 11 and 14, is directed to an electron tube including a vessel, a primary linear member installed in the vessel, an electrode disposed in the vessel, a first auxiliary linear member and a second auxiliary linear member disposed at different heights to interpose the primary linear member therebetween, and a plurality of fixing members, formed at a single substrate constituting a part of the vessel, for fixing end portions of the first auxiliary and the second auxiliary linear member thereto. The electron tube according to the present invention reduces a space for fixing one or more pairs of auxiliary linear members, the number of processes and members therefor, and the amount of wiring thereof and terminals for extracting the wiring to outside by fixing one or more pairs of auxiliary linear members to a common fixing member or separated fixing members formed on a same substrate.

Although Yonezawa discloses a single auxiliary linear member 57 in FIGs. 5A-5C, Yonezawa fails to teach or suggest a second auxiliary linear member disposed at different a height from the single auxiliary linear member, and a plurality of fixing members, formed at a single substrate for fixing end portions of the first

auxiliary and the second auxiliary linear member thereto. Further, Yoshinobu discloses a first auxiliary linear member(25, top) and a second auxiliary linear member(25, bottom), but does not teach a plurality of fixing members, formed at a single substrate for fixing end portions of the first auxiliary and the second auxiliary linear member thereto. Therefore, the first and the second auxiliary linear members of Yoshinobu may be fixed to two different substrates, respectively, which cannot achieve the above effectiveness of the present invention.

The positively recited feature of the present invention, that the first and second auxiliary linear members are fixed through the plurality of fixing members, formed at a single substrate, cannot be derived from any reasonable combination of Yonezawa and Yoshinobu, and therefore, the present invention, as defined in claims 11 or 14, could not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art. Consequently, it is most respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 11 and 14 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 7, 12-13, 15-16, 20 and 23 are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims on which they depend, as well as for their own features. The allowance of dependent claims 2-3, 7, 12-13, 15-16, 20 and 23 is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicant now respectfully submits that all

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of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn; and that claims 2-26 be allowed in their present form. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussions, he is kindly invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims an/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case be passed to issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at any time.

Respectfully submitted,
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